IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Cancel Claims 16, 18, and 19 without prejudice.

Amend Claim 17 as follows:

17. (twice amended)   A method for the inhibition of transmission of a hepatitis B virus to a cell, comprising contacting the cell with an effective concentration of a peptide having [a] <u>the</u> formula [selected from the group consisting of]:

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X-PLLVLQAGFFLLTRILTIPQSLDSWWTSLNFLGGGTTVCLGQNSQSP-Z;
X-PLLVLQAGFFLLTRILTIPQSLDSWWTSLNFLGGT-Z;
X-LLVLQAGFFLLTRILTIPQSLDSWWTSLNFLGGTT-Z;
X-LVLQAGFFLLTRILTIPQSLDSWWTSLNFLGGTTV-Z;
X-LQAGFFLLTRILTIPQSLDSWWTSLNGLGGTTVCL-Z;
X-QAGFFLLTRILTIPQSLDSWWTSLNFLGGTTVCLG-Z;
X-AGFFLLTRILTIPQSLDSWWTSLNFLGGTTVCLGQ-Z;
X-GFFLLTRILTIPQSLDSWWTSLNFLGGTTVCLGQN-Z;
X-FFLLTRILTIPQSLDSWWTSLNFLGGTTVCLGQNS-Z;
X-FLLTRILTIPQSLDSWWTSLNFLGGTTVCLGQNSQ-Z;
X-LLTRILTIPQSLDSWWTSLNFLGGTTVCLGQNSQS-Z;
X-PGYRWMCLRRFIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSSTSTG
   PCRTCMTT-Z;
X-PGYRWMCLRRFIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGML-Z;
X-GYRWMCLRRFIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLP-Z
X-YRWMCLRRFIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPV-Z;
X-RWMCLRRFIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVC-Z;
X-WMCLRRFIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCP-Z;
X-MCLRRFIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPI-Z;
X-CLRRFIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLI-Z;
X-LRRFIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIP-Z;
X-RRFIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPG-Z;
X-RFIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGS-Z;
X-FIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIGGSS-Z;
X-IIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSST-Z;
X-IFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSSTS-Z;
X-FLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSSTST-Z;
X-LFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSSTSTG-Z;
X-FILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSSTSTGP-Z;
X-ILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSSTSTGPC-Z;
X-LLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSSTSTGPCR-Z;
X-LLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSSTSTGPCRT-Z;
X-LCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSSTSTGPCRTC-Z;
X-CLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSSTSTGPCRTCM-Z;
X-LIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSSTSTGPCRTCMT-Z; or
X-IFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSSTSTGPCRTCMTT-Z;
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                          (SEQ ID NOS: 239-273, respectively)

in which:

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amino acid residues are presented by the single-letter code;

X comprises an amino group, an acetyl group, a 9-fluorenylmethoxy-carbonyl group, a hydrophobic group, or a macromolecule carrier group;

Z comprises a carboxyl group, an amido group, a hydrophobic group, or a macromolecular carrier group for an effective period of time so that no infection of the cell by the virus occurs.

[Add new Claims 20-55, as follows:]

--20. (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide has the formula

X-PLLVLQAGFFLLTRILTIPQSLDSWWTSLNFLGGGTTVCLGQNSQSP-Z
(SEQ ID NO: 239).

21. (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide has the formula

X-PLLVLQAGFFLLTRILTIPQSLDSWWTSLNFLGGT-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 240).

22. (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide has the formula

X-LLVLQAGFFLLTRILTIPQSLDSWWTSLNFLGGTT-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 241).

23. (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide has the formula

X-LVLQAGFFLLTRILTIPQSLDSWWTSLNFLGGTTV-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 242).

24. (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide has the formula

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X-LQAGFFLLTRILTIPQSLDSWWTSLNGLGGTTVCL-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 243).

25.   (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide
has the formula

X-QAGFFLLTRILTIPQSLDSWWTSLNFLGGTTVCLG-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 244).

26.   (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide
has the formula

X-AGFFLLTRILTIPQSLDSWWTSLNFLGGTTVCLGQ-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 245).

27.   (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide
has the formula

X-GFFLLTRILTIPQSLDSWWTSLNFLGGTTVCLGQN-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 246).

28.   (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide
has the formula

X-FFLLTRILTIPQSLDSWWTSLNFLGGTTVCLGQNS-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 247).

29.   (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide
has the formula

X-FLLTRILTIPQSLDSWWTSLNFLGGTTVCLGQNSQ-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 248).

30.   (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide
has the formula

X-LLTRILTIPQSLDSWWTSLNFLGGTTVCLGQNSQS-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 249).

31.   (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide
has the formula

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X-PGYRWMCLRRFIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSSTSTG
PCRTCMTT-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 250).

14 32. (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide
has the formula

    X-PGYRWMCLRRFIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGML-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 251).

15 33. (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide
has the formula

    X-GYRWMCLRRFIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLP-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 252).

16 34. (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide
has the formula

    X-YRWMCLRRFIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPV-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 253).

17 35. (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide
has the formula

    X-RWMCLRRFIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVC-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 254).

18 36. (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide
has the formula

    X-WMCLRRFIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCP-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 255).

19 37. (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide
has the formula

    X-MCLRRFIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPI-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 256).

20 38. (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide
has the formula

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X-CLRRFIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLI-Z (SEQ ID NO: 257).

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39. (new) The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide
has the formula

X-LRRFIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIP-Z (SEQ ID NO: 258).

22
40. (new) The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide
has the formula

X-RRFIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPG-Z (SEQ ID NO: 259).

23
41. (new) The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide
has the formula

X-RFIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGS-Z (SEQ ID NO: 260).

24
42. (new) The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide
has the formula

X-FIIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIGGSS-Z (SEQ ID NO: 261).

25
43. (new) The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide
has the formula

X-IIFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSST-Z (SEQ ID NO: 262).

26
44. (new) The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide
has the formula

X-IFLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSSTS-Z (SEQ ID NO: 263).

27
45. (new) The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide
has the formula

X-FLFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSSTST-Z (SEQ ID NO: 264).

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28. (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide has the formula

    X-LFILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSSTSTG-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 265).

29. (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide has the formula

    X-FILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSSTSTGP-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 266).

30. (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide has the formula

    X-ILLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSSTSTGPC-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 267).

31. (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide has the formula

    X-LLLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSSTSTGPCR-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 268).

32. (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide has the formula

    X-LLCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSSTSTGPCRT-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 269).

33. (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide has the formula

    X-LCLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSSTSTGPCRTC-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 270).

34. (new)   The method of Claim 17 wherein the peptide has the formula

    X-CLIFLLVLLDYQGMLPVCPLIPGSSTSTGPCRTCM-Z   (SEQ ID NO: 271).